

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12, 14-43 and 45-49 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 30 and 47 are amended. Claims 13 and 44 are canceled. Claims 48 and 49 are new. Support for the amendments and new claims can be found in the specification at paragraphs 0026, 0049, and 0051. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 30, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner states:

See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are the functionality the role has as the role is installed on a computing device. What purpose does the role have for being installed on the computing device?

In the applicants' published document, publication no. 20050198243, at paragraph 0049, the installation of the role refers to the implementation of one or more configuration files configured from information comprised from the role assignment.

The remaining claims are dependent claims. These claims are also rejected for being dependent on the above rejected independent claims.

Office Action dated April 17, 2008, page 3.

Applicants have amended the claims to address the Examiner's concern. Claim 1, which is exemplary, is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for assigning a role to a computing device in a network data processing system, the method comprising:
 - providing at least a first physical token, wherein the first physical token includes at least one visible characteristic, wherein the first physical token has role information associated therewith, and wherein the at least one visible characteristic is indicative of at least a first role associated with the first physical token;
 - placing at least the first physical token in a physical relationship with a first computing device;
 - associating the first computing device with the first physical token;
 - receiving, by the first computing device, the role information from the first physical token;

responsive to the role information being received, assigning the first role to the first computing device based on the role information; and installing, by the computing device, the first role on a storage of the computing device, wherein the first role comprises a number of bits, wherein the number of bits is associated with the first physical token, and wherein the number of bits distinguishes the first role on the computing device.

Claim 1, and the remaining claims, now contain the feature of, “wherein the first role comprises a number of bits, wherein the number of bits is associated with the first physical token, and wherein the number of bits distinguishes the first role on the computing device.” Thus, though the claimed function of the bits, the purpose of the first role is now defined in the claims. Therefore, this rejection is overcome.

II. Conclusion

The subject application is patentable over the cited references. Therefore, the subject application should now be in condition for allowance. Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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